ad to ountry met in e and in every found to be the t of wisdom, look ing both to the mental and moral uplifting and the material advancement of the people, to prohibit the labor in mills of children of tender age. England, France, Germany, and all the principal manufacturing countries of Europe, and all the manufacturing States in the North in our own country, after thorough investigation and long experience, have decided in this manner. The question is a new one in the South only because the South has within very recent years developed into a manufacturing section.

rain.

The manufacturing industries of the South in the near future will be compelled to meet strong competition from the people of other sections of the globe, particularly from the far East. In order to meet this competition they must have skilled and intelligent labor, and this can only be secured in the operatives of the future by the education and the preparation of the children of the present. And the children of the present cannot be educated and prepared for their duties and for good citizenship if they are required to labor in the mills during their tender years.

The question is demanding solution, and the part of wisdom is to solve it now. For the longer it is left alone the more difficult of solution it becomes. This question was discussed by you at your last session and in one branch of your body defeated by a large majority. Final action, however, was postponed by a continuance of a bill in the other branch. After careful and thoughtful con-

sideration it is my opinion that it is a daty which you owe to humanity and the citizenship of your State to protect these children by prohibiting their labor in our manufactories. If the parent does not feel sufficient interest in his own offspring to lok after its best interests and to prepare it for the high duties of good citizenship. then it is the duty of the State to step in and assert its authority by taking care of the life and the health and the happiness of these helpless little ones. I realize that it is a perplexing question where the authority of the parent ends and the duty of the State begins, but in a question of such vital importance to the State fine spun theories should not be indulged, but the best interests of the Commonwealth and its citizenship should be the paramount issue. No child under twelve years of age should be permitted to labor in the manufactories of this State, unless it be necessary for the support of a widowed mother. if you should adopt such a measure. however, at least one year should be given before it becomes of force in order that all parties may adjust themselves to the new conditions. EDUCATION.

It is a principle now well recognized, that the safety of the government itself requires that it give its citizens the opportunity to fit themselves for an intelligent discharge of their duties to the State. Our form of Government itself in which every

"DEAR MES. PINKHAM: - I was in an awful state for nearly three years with a complication of female troubles which three physicians called by different names, but the pains were all the same. I dreaded the time of my

the efforts cted prinand perof common to the comgreat majority look for their month ild not interfere of da higher education. of the State is to majority of its citielligent use of the itizenship. The ideal properly articulated mmon school to the high college and the university. little use for a republic to her institutions of learning ing men of wisdom and power it has also a system of genhav of universal education prong popular respect for wisdom The university at the power. ummit, reaching as high as human intelligence can go, the common school at the base, spreading as wide as human nature itself, and between them the best attainable system of grammar schools and high schools and academies, and spreading out from them an ever-developing organi-

of the republic." But it is of little or no use to have an adequate system of free education unless it be taken advantage of by the children of the State. The attendance uron our common schools is not as large as it should be. No child should be allowed to grow up to meet the high duties and responsibilities of citizenship without at least having acquired the rudiments of a good education. And yet many of the children of this State are permitted to come to the years of maturity without being able to read or write, either because the child cannot see for itself the advantages, or the father is wilfully negligent of the welfare of his offspring, or himself ignorant of the necessity of an education. There is no greater enemy to the welfare of society and to Republican institutions than ignorance, and the duty of the State is to require the child to take advantage of the education provided.

institutions-these are the defenses

The question of compulsory educators throughout the State for the teachers for longer terms: past few years. Various public addresses on this subject have been

that the majority of our best educa tors advocate the system of pulsory education.

The objector to compulsory educa tion will urge that every parent has the right to determine what education shall be given his own child and that the State has no right to interfere in the affairs of the family. When a contagious disease invades the State no question of this kind is raised, but State takes measures to stamp out the disease and asks not for permission to establish a quarantine against the spread of the malady. The two cases are similar. Ignorance is the worst of diseases and the State has the right to require that the children shall be brought up in such a way as to make the best possible citizens. It is also urged that the cost will be too great. The State is now spending more than a million dollars on the education of its children and the proper position is that every child of school age should reap its share. But the greatest objection which is urged to compulsory education in the South is the ever-present negro, and the fear that if he is educated he cannot be controlled. The fallacy of this argument is patent to every thoughtful man. It is a fact known and recognized that in this State at present, in proportion to the population of each, there are a great many more negro children than whites receiving the education provided. The negro is here to stay, and to educate him rightly will but teach him his position and he of benefit to him and to us. To leave him without an education is but to make him a tool in the hands of the designing and a curse to society. It is but suicidal not to require the white children of the State to attend the common schools for fear the negro children will receive the same advantages This argument means that we should let the white children grow up in ignorance in order that the negro may not learn.

In this age there are many problems which confront us and must be solved. Education is the solution. We must educate, not one here and there, but every child in the State.

A compulsory law at the beginning would probably have to encounter difficulties in its enforcement, but the time is ripe for something to be dong, as every one must admit when he considers the percentage of enrol-ment to the children of school age, especially in the rural districts.

All the principal countries of Europe, in fact all the principal civilized countries throughout the world, and two-thirds of the States and Territories of our own country, have adopted some system of compulsory education. In many of the other States it is being agitated and urged.

According to the Census of 1890 the percentage of whites in South Carolina over twepty-one years of age who could neither read nor write was 15.65; of negroes 65.23. In 1200 the Census figures show the percentage of whites A2.6, and of negroes 54.7. lgures need no comment. The These ige of illiteracy among the perce has decreased in ten ye wh nt., the negroes following data States that have

verv en n laws and besummer. has been obtained The Sta ws of various States following and from letters from "Whe overnors and superin-Daugh past Attendance.

Compulsory weeks, 12 consecu-....7 to 14

na-two thirds term, 12 s consecutive 8 to 14 ado-12 weeks, 8 consecu-aho-12 weeks, 8 consecu--12 consecutive weeks 8 to 14 Kentucky-8 consecutive weeks 7 to 14 Maine-16 consecutive weeks 7 to 14

Michigan-16 consecutive weeks 8 to 15 Ohio-16 to 20, consecutive tive.. 8 to 14 Nevada-16 weeks, 8 consecutive..... S to 14 New Hampshire—full term 8 to 14 New Jersey-20 weeks, 8 consecutive.. 7 to 12

Massachusetts-30 consecutive

New Mexico-12 weeks.....8 to 16 New York-full term.... 8 to 16 North Dakota-12 weeks, 6 consecutive...... 8 to 14 Oregon—12 weeks, 8 consecu-

secutive..... 8 to 11 Washington—12 weeks.....8 to 15 West Virginia-16 weeks.... 8 to 14 Wisconsin-12 weeks.... 7 to 13 Vermont—28 weeks......8 to 15 Nebraska—two-thirds term ..7 to 14 Minnesota—full term.... 8 to 16 Kansas—12 weeks, 6 consecutive...... 8 to 14 Rhode Island—12 weeks, 6 con-

zation of technical and professional

tive...... % to 14 I would suggest in our State that the ages he fixed between eight and thirteen, and attendance required for at least twelve weeks of the school

The status of the public schools is about the same as it was at the time of your last session. The average school term for the past year for the white schools, according to the State Superintendent's report, was twentyone weeks, exactly the same as the one for the year previous; for the negro schools the term was fourteen weeks, one week less than for the previous year. It may be remarked that the State Superintendent reports that in a few of the coun'ies there are so many inaccuracies in the report submitted to him as to the average number of weeks as well as the other averages and totals, that the reports in his report cannot be absolutely relied upon.

I desire to repeat here what I said last year: The importance of levying an additional tay for the support of the country schools cannot be too strongly urged upon our recole. This cation has agitated the minds of edu- will enable them to employ compowill enable them to give their chil dren elementary and preparatory made and at nearly every teachers' training at home; and it will tend to association in the State the question check the abnormal flow of population from the country to the town; and encouragement hearty support tatives of the people of the representation from the country to the town;

om every point ossible for the come too methe irreguat the country ossible to have or systematic of the super in the country equence of the aid the County must give a ir time to other supervising the

ould be made to nt boards of boards of eduof office in the two years. Most eing sure of their e are unable to more than one affair nate system of no continuous school to year without s e of tenure. be elected by the peop change e way as not to ne time; and the boards c on a som hould be elected

The Sta ar plan. tention to endent calls at securing better school hous the most o should be given cause the l nsideration, children canno ts in trainiv and uncomfortable

The total expe for whites was groes \$211,287.5 113.00 ast year for ne-The total expen for whites was 96,841.05. grees \$203,033.4 EGE.

The present romises to be the history of the most succ Winthrop Col are 297 the Normal De pupils enrolle of 120 in partment-ar two years and of vious. Every county on the represented in the hrolment, ever before in is much greater th the history of the school. The health of the student body is reported as good.

The much-needed new dormitory building was completed in time for the opening of the session last October and the new seprovided for by the erage system eral Assembly has been successfully installed within the appropriation made for it.

The college has excellent exhibit at the Charleston Exposition. The Board of Trustees have care fully considered the needs of the college for another year and an itemized statement of the amounts which will be necessary whi be submitted to you. Winthrop College is the only institution supported by the State for the higher education of its women, and it is, as it should be, the pride of South Carolina. It should receive your support and encouragement and the support and encouragement of every citizen of the State.

SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE. This institution has just entered e second hundred years of its a record behind it of which itution might well be proud bright pros for the fu

creases yearly, going years ago to 227 duri- from 162 four the past session. Its affairs are creetly managed. Economy and ca in making its means g are exercised es far as possible in providing for e health and comfort and instruct of its students. A clear stateme estimate of all items and detailed expenditure is presented to you by that you can see the authorities. both what is needed and how much

it will cost. The college is doing excellent work and deserves the lik the State, and should eral support of and strengthened in be sustained forts to exalt the id its earnest of ards of education andeals and stand-INSTITUTION FOR culture.

THE EDUCA-TION OF THE DE BLINIAF AND THE

The fifty-third annu South Carolina Instal report of the litution for the Education of the Dea shows an average attf and the Blind year of 163 pupil thirty-four counties. T enting have been kept withi ditures opriation made for the su stitution. The cost of the school year beg 1900, and ending Jun \$21,227.92. This make was apita ost of \$130.23 for eas

The building for department for colored pupils h pleted and is now occurs been compied by that department. The new "school building" for which the last legislature appropriated \$20,000 cess of erection and is now in prooccupancy by the bill be ready for ginning of the

next school term. The superintendent asks for an appropriation of \$23,00 The increase in numb for support. attendance and the ber of pupils in living expenses creat greater cost of for the increase in as necessity support over that of propriation for propriations amounti last year. Ap-deemed necessary for to \$3.859 are the necessity plumbing, electric w steam heating, ishing the new scholling, and furnfor necessary repairol building, and ing main building an and refurnishd for insurance of furniture, etc.

The affairs of the been conducted in a institution have ness-like manner, an practical busiasked for maintenanced the amount tive estimate and she is a conserva-CLEMSON Could be granted.

Itemized statements LLEGE. ditures of this institut of the expenmitted to you. A largeion will be subexpenditure is for ge amount of the such as farmers' instineral purposes, tomological work, anitutes, State entilizer inspection. Asti the State ferother colleges of the compared with character the cost of same size and institution is below maintaining this new dormitory has betthe average. A to make room for en built in order number of applicant the increasing admission to this s clamoring for should be a matter d institution. It to the people of the f congratulation have an institution of State that they doing the work that such high grade which our young me Clemson does at in those branches wh can be taught them to take a learnich will enable practical affairs of ling part in the terial advancement offe and the macountry. This institut their State and it will receive, the ion deserves, as

SOUTH CAROLINA MILITARY ACA-

DEMY. At your last session you increased the annual appropriation of this institution to \$25,000, with a view of reducing the charges to the cadets from \$300 to \$250 per annum. This reduction was made by the Board of Visitors at their meing last June, and the board hopes thi action will tend materially to increthe number in attendance. The he of the students has been good an affairs of the institution have beg managed. An appropriation 250 is asked for.

The recent annual reun tended by students was very largely the country, graduates from all ove nem was most and the spirit shown bywell for the fugratifying and argue Academy. ture prosperity of OLLEGE.

COLORE of the president of From the repris learned that the tothis institution its for the year ending tal disbursep 1, were \$32,350. An ap-June 30th, from the Legislature of propriation be asked. This institution \$13,328 % good work for the colored is doings the State and should have peoplencouragement. In addition to yourbove an appropriation of \$700 for thking, preparing, and installing an phibit at the Charleston Exposition will be asked.

A SOLDIER'S HOME. Within the past few years the necessities of many of the old Confederate soldiers whose names are enrolled in the ranks of those who volunteered from this State have been forcibly brought to the attention of our peo-

ple. In some cases those who have no means of support and no one on whom to depend in their declining years are enduring want and hardship and privation. Some of them even now are

in the county poor houses. These are the men who in the time of their youth and strength, in answer to the call of their State in the darkest hour of her history, sacrificed their all, and went forth to serve her and to defend her rights on the field of battle. The record of the part they played in that conflict is familiar to you and did their duty and their whole duty, and more than most men would have considered their whole duty, in defense of their State. Nearly a half century has passed since then and most of them have answered their last roll call among us, and it should be the provilege and the pride of South Carolina to see that not one of these who served It will be only a few short years at best when there will be no necessity for you to consider this question, for there will be no one to occupy a Confederate Soidier's Home. If you ever expect to do anything for the old soldier along this

is needed and not talk. In this connection I beg to submit an extract from the report of the Board of Regents for the Hospital for the In-

sane: providing a home for Veterans, the Board of Regents de ticability of using the tract of land embracing about fifty acres upon the Wallace purchase known as the Bellevue Veterans, and in time they could retion of food and drugs and a law of vert to the Regents for the purposes this kind should be made effective. of this Hospital. By this method the future use of these buildings the Site could well afford to expend a larger sum upon their construction than could be done for merely temporary buildings.'

This plan strikes me as entirely practicable and I commend it as a happy solution of the question. At the present rate of increase among the occupants of the Hospital for the Insane the buildthe time there is no longer need for it case. as a Confederate Home and the State adopting this plan and utilizing this property for the purpose indicated. Of course it should be understood that the management of the Home should in no way be connected with the management of the Hospital but a separate and distinct institution.

THE DISPENSARY.

This question has been so much discussed, both on the stump and in the halls of legislation, and so bitterly fought by its enemies and so strongly defended by its friends, that every phase of it is familiar to you and to the people. It is now more s'congly entrenched in this State than ever before and it may be considered as the fixed policy of the State for dealing with the liquor problem. Its benefits and advantages are patent to every fair minded and unprejudiced critic. That there is violation of the law in certain sections is no argument against the system. Even in Charleston and Columbia, the sections of the State where there have been more violations of the law than in any other, the municipal authorities have come to realize the fact that the dispensary system is the fixed policy of the State for dealing with the liquor problem and have adopted ordinances providing for the punishment of violators. If the Mayors and Councils of all cities and towns would exert themselves vigorously in enforcing the law and bringing to justice those who violate it there would be no necessity for maintaining a large constabulary force. As public sentiment grows more and more in favor of the law this will be done. That pubthe system must be admitted by every careful observer.

The management of the d'spensary for the past year has been business like and satisfactory. The State Board of Directors and the State Comi ssioner have worked in harmony and every thing has moved smoothly, these officers having been faithful to the trust imposed. The report of the directors which will be submitted to you, shows gross sales of \$2,328,691.21 with a ne profit to the State of \$120,962.25 on ac count of school fund. The net proit to the counties and towns amounted to \$424,285.87, making a total net profit for the year of \$545,248.12. The post states that the school fund at pres ent amounts to \$611.354.33, but that i is available very slowly for payment to the schools inasmuch as it is used as working capital.

hanagement of the consta-In the have tried to select men of bulary I have tried to select men or judgment and discretion, who would parform their duty and at the performance time cause no friction in the enment of the law. There is and been and will continue to be violaon of the law as there is of all law and an army of constables could not enforce it absolutely in all sections of the State. It would be better for the law if it were possible to do away with the constabulary feature entirely and this could be done if the municipal authorities and other officers throughout the State would lend their aid in the enforcement of this law as they do of the colls and the fading of the other laws. This is the case in many names. These rolls are very incomplete, sections of the State and it is getting more and more so throughout the en-tire State, and as public sentiment grows in favor of the system the con-

stabulary may be removed entirely. During the year closing November 30, there had been 272 convictions for violation of the dispensary law; \$23,-486 imposed as fines, of which amount \$4,735 was paid, and 137 of the convicts took the alternative on the chain gang. The total cost of the constabul-ary for the year was \$45,011.25.

I would recommend that the minimum fine in case of conviction for violation of the dispensary law be made \$50 instead of \$100 and that the minimum service remain at three months. There are cases when it would be better for the county and State to have \$50 than three months' service and when it would be paid if the Judge had the discretion to impose it.

In dealing with this question your purpose should be to improve and per-

fect the system.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH. The report of the State Board of health, showing their work for the year and making several recommendations, will be submitted to you.

During the past year smallpox appeared in several sections of the State. Such cases as were reported to me were immediately brought to the attention of the Board and in every instance efforts were made to suppress the disease by the enforcement of gento the whole world and needs not to eral vaccination. According to the be repeated here. Suffice it to say, they weekly health reports of the United States Marine Hospital service there were in the United States in October, 1901, twice as many cases as at the same time in 1900. This should be a warning to all local boards of health to act promptly at the first and gone to join their comrades on the appearance of a case and enforce vacother shore. But few of them are left, cination. The most economical and effective measure in stamping out the disease is to vaccinate and, owing to the wide-spread prevalence of the disher so well in the hour of her need, is ease throughout the country recently, in want, in this the evening of his life. it would be wise to take some action making vaccination at certain stated periods compulsory throughout the State. The Board calls attention to the fact

that in 1898 an Act was passed "to provide for the inspection of food, line, now is the time. It is action that drugs. spirituous and fermented liquors, and to provide for the punishment for adulterations there-of," and making it the duty of the State Board of Health to carry out its provision. No appropriation was ever "In view of the consideration by the made, however, to enable the Board to General Assembly of the advisability carry out the provisions of the Act, Confederate and it has therefore, been practically egents desired in order. The inspection of foods to present to your Excellency the prac- and drugs is a very important matter, as on the use and consumption of pure food and drugs depend the life and health of our citizens, and some action Place. * * * * Upon this tract could should be taken which will enable this now be begun a series of permanent law to be enforced. There is no doubt buildings adapted to all the uses of the that at present there is much adultera-

The Board also recommends that the as they deserve, since in view of the giving as a reason, "the great need of competent expert service to detect the early manifestations of disease as shown by laboratory test," especially of suspected tuberculosis or consumption in its early stages, diptheria and typhold fever. The board thinks the many instances be checked at the very source and by early discovery and ing will be needed by the Hospital by a large number of those with the dis-

will only be building for the future by made which are embodied in the report to be submitted to you. STATE MILITIA.

necessity of the State having at its command a well organized and well equipped volunteer soldiery—ever ready to aid by its moral effect the prezervation of peace and good order in our Commonwealth." Its maintenance seems imperative. Thefore I deem it likewise unnecessary to suggest the dignity of the State, the pride of her people, the safety of life, the protection of property, and the wisdom of sound statesmanship, all deruand that the milling of the State be cared for and

likerally supported. It is generally recognized that under the present direction of the States mili- duty to her sons who fought and fell tary department the volunteer service has been vastly improved and an impetus given to its progress and discipline that deserves and receives my heartlest commendation. I may say that in every instance ducing my occupancy of the executive chair whenever an emergency has occurred that necessitated a call on the militia to assist in preserving the peace and protecting the property of our people, officers and enlisted men alike have obeyed criters with the greatest alacrity, courage and In May last at the unveiling of the

monument at Chickamauga erected by South Cacolina in commemoration her herces who there fought and fell. 1 considered it a matter of pride and patrictism to have the volunteer troops to do honor to the occasion, and lic sentiment is growing in favor of I therefore directed the Adjutant General to form a provisional regiment from among those in the service. Nine companies composed the formation and Col. Wille Jones was appointed the colonel in command. The cost of transportation was \$1.876.25, which the my'itary board decided to pay out of the annual appropriation made to a lyance the efficiency of the State militia. The Adjutant General in his report asks that the said amount be addd to the next appropriation, and I recommend that this be done. In all such public State or national demonstrations the various States of the Union cheerfully ear all the expenses of their volunteer

Anything which you may do to itcase the efficiency of our Sie - milia will be welcomed by the people of the State, and every true citizen will hall with satisfaction the day when

South Carolina shall be able to follow. the laudable example of some of her; sister States in amply providing for and maintaining that important area of the State government.

CONFEDERATE RECORDS. The Adjutant and Inspector General in whose department the Confederate Rolls are placed for preservation, informs me that almost daily he is called upon by old soldiers or their kinsmen for permission to examine the rolls in search of the names of relatives and for. correction and for various other purposes. Such daily examination and handling naturally results in the wear it is true, but an appropriation should be made for printing them in book form so as to preserve in permanent shape that part of the record for which the State has already made considerable expenditure. As a testimonial of gratitude for the patriotism of those who

vision for the preservation of this record. The organizations of Veterans, Sons of Veterans, and Daughters of the Confederacy are egitating the question and making preparation to undertake the work, in a systematic way, of completing and perfecting these records! and in their efforts they should have your encouragement. But to preserve and put in permanent shape what we have, will in no way interfere with this work, but will be of assistance in car-

served their State so well in this con-

flict South Carolina should no longer

defer this important matter, but should

at once take some action to preserve

this link in our history, and make pro-

rying it forward. PENSIONS.

At the last session of the Legislature, the Act to provide for Pensions for certain soldiers and sailors, approved February 19,1900, was amended so as to appropriate \$150,000.00 annually to pay the pensions provided by this Act. The appropriation bill, however, carried only \$100,000.00 for this purpose. That raised doubt in the mind of the State Treasurer as to whether \$190,000 .-00 or \$150,000.00 had been appropriated for pensions, and he refused to honor the Comptroller General's warrant for \$150,000.00. Under this condition of affairs mandamus proceedings were instituted to settle the question. It was argued before the Supreme Court and decided by the Court that the amount appropriated was only \$100,000.00. The distribution of the fund was therefore based on the appropriation of \$100,-

If it was your intention to pay the pensioners in 1901 \$150,000.00 an appropriation of \$50,000.00 for this purpose will be necessary at this session. There were on the rolls last year 6,503 pensioners. In Part 2 of the Comptroller, General's report you will find an itemzed statement of the distribution of this fund, together with a list of pensioners on the roll.

In this report the Comptroller General calls special attention to the fact that in distributing this money, a soldier 60 years of age who was not wounded or injured in service, fares the same as the wounded soldier, and the widow whose husband was killed in battle or died while in service, and who was not remarried, shares equally with the sixty-year old widow, who lost her husband within the last two

years. He also submits a suggestion as to classification and the amount to be paid. As the Comptroller General is familiar with this subject, his suggestion should have your careful attention. UNVEILING OF THE CHICKAMAU-

GA MONUMENT. The monument which, through your Veterans would be given such buildings office of State Bacteriologist be created generosity, has been erected at Chickamauga to commemorate the heroism displayed by the Confederate soldier from South Carolina on that battlefield was unveiled with appropriate exercises on the 27th of last May. The monument is one of the most beautiful and appropriate on the field. It is made spread of these diseases could then in of South Carolina granite, and on the one side is a bronze life-size Confedeinfantryman, and on the other rate treatment of the cases restore to health a Confederate artilleryman. The top of the monument is a graceful brobge Palmetto tree, the emblem of the Pal-Several other recommendations are metto State. On one side is the in-nade which are embodied in the re- scription: "To her faithful sons at Chickamauga South Carolina erects this monument to commemorate the I deem it scarcely necessary to call valor they provil and the lives they your attention to the ever increasing gave on this hattlefield." On the other are the names of the regiments which represented South Carolina in th's batt'e, and to the members of which this monument was erected, together with the number of killed and

wounded from cach. The exercises at the unveiling were most appropriate and were largely attended by veterans and citizens from South Carolina. For a detailed description of the monument and account of the excreises I refer you to the published report of the Commissioners.

All true sons o South Carolina rejoice that she has at last done her on this historic field.

REDISTRICTING.

At your last session you had before you for consideration several bills for redistricting the State. None was passed and the whole subject will come up for consideration at this session. There no longer exists any reason for the shoe-string districts which we have in this State and it is a duty you owe the people to redistrict the State into congressional districts that will be compact and contiguous in territory. This should be done without regard to the political fortunes or interests of any individual and solely with a view of serving the interests of the people of the several districts. At the last session of the Congress of the United States an Act was passed in which the following section occurs:

"Section 3. That in each State entitled under this apportionment the number to which such State may be entitled in the Fifty-eighth and each subsequent Congress shall be elected by districts composed of contiguous and compact territory and containing as nearly as practicable an equal num-

ber of inhabitants." You will note that Act of Congress provides that the districts "shall" be composed of territory "compact and contiguous." This may not be mandatory, but as there is no reason at present for the congressional district remaining as they are it seems to be the part of wisdom and good judgment at this session to pass an Act making them "contiguous" and more "com-

pact." FOREST PRESERVATION. It is only recently that the subject